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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 002893

SIPDIS

FOR EUR: ROBERT BRADTKE; EUR/RPM

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TAGS: [MOPS](#) [IT](#) [NATO](#) [IRAQI](#) [FREEDOM](#)

SUBJECT: GOI SUPPORTS DUAL-HATTING MNF-I COMMANDER,

SUGGESTS NON-US NATO DEPUTY

REF: STATE 161037

Classified By: POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR TOM COUNTRYMAN FOR REASON 1
.4 B/D.

¶1. (C) Following Reftel's request, Pol-Mil Officer demarched Italian MFA NATO Office Head Giovanni Brauzzi on July 26. Brauzzi responded that Italy had already decided to fully support the US proposal to dual-hat the MNF-I commander as commander of the NATO training mission in Iraq. Italy will advocate that position in the NAC once the proposal clears the Military Committee as expected on July 26.

¶2. (C) Brauzzi suggested that it would be highly desirable to appoint a non-American officer as deputy commander of the NATO training mission. While there are many precedents in NATO practice for dual-hatting commanders, he noted that this would be the first time for dual-hatting a commander responsible to a command -- in this case, CENTCOM -- outside the Euro-Atlantic area.

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